

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listing of the claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) Method for the production of a sheet metal plate, ~~in particular of steel~~, for the manufacture of motor vehicle body components with at least one local reinforcement zone (13, 14, 21, 22, 34 to 37), characterised by comprising the following steps:

- a) producing, in [[In]] a continuous production process, a sheet metal strip (1) is produced with strips (2 to 6) of differing thickness and/or quality running parallel to the longitudinal direction of the sheet strip[[.]];  
b) cutting individual ~~individual~~ sheet metal sections [[(7)]] with straight cut edges ~~are cut~~ to length from the sheet metal strip (1); and  
c) joining a [[A]] first sheet metal section [[(7)]] of this sheet metal strip (1) is joined to a second sheet metal section [[(9)]], with a join line [[(10)]] running straight and transversely to the longitudinal direction of the strips (2, 3, 4, 5) of the first sheet metal section (7), in such a way that the local reinforcement zones (13, 14) come to lie in the strips (2, 3) with greater thickness and/or higher quality.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterised in that wherein the sheet metal plate is joined from two sheet metal sections (15, 16, 24, 25) of striated sheet strips and, as appropriate, of one non-striated sheet strip.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 2, characterised in that wherein the striated sheet strips are differently striated.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (New) Method according to claim 2, wherein the sheet metal plate is jointed from two sheet metal sections of striated sheet strips and of one non-striated sheet strip.

Claim 6 (New) Method according to claim 1, wherein the sheet metal plate is steel.